

## **Sumter County**

1. **What does educational achievement mean to our community?**
  - Better ability to hire locally for industries
  - Better quality of life
  - Ability to attract higher wage business and industry
  
2. **What is needed in our community so that ALL students can succeed? (Strengths & Challenges)**
  - Fully fund education – determine the cost for goal of being in the top half of states nationally. The standard (goal) was set without determining the cost to get there.
  - State needs to fund its mandates and quit shifting the burden to maintaining programs in school districts to local governments
  - Comprehensive plan (Sumter Education Commission) to review and monitor progress of student achievement improvement
  - Redirect focus of all students attending a 4-year college to technical training and career planning.

**Strengths:**

  - Community is engaged in Vision process and has outlined goals and established an independent, business led commission on education for the two school districts

**Challenges:**

  - Funding
  - Opportunities for children in low socioeconomic areas
  
3. **What programs, partnerships etc. work well in your community to support all students succeeding?**
  - (not listed)
  
4. **What can we do in our homes and neighborhoods to strengthen our schools?**
  - (not listed)